21: Simkin U-5 (no date) 1945 OU9 Tonga OU9

tic cultivation and the adoption of proper curing methods could lead to a more plentiful and superior supply of tobacco, and might even give the country a new export. Export markets might also be found for corn, hemp, ginger, chillies, candlenuts and kava.

One or two secondary industries might also be developed. If cotton proved a practical crop, a cottage weaving industry would be a distinct possibility. Silk might be developed in the same way, since mulberries flourish in Tonga. Sugar cane flourishes too, yet no attempt has been made to extract sugar, which is imported from Fiji. A small industry could provide all the sugar the country needs, and the buffalo mills employed in North Borneo might prove suitable for this purpose. The Tongans take great pride in personal cleanliness, but cannot afford to buy much soap. There is always plenty of copra: a livestock industry would ensure ample tallow, and the country would both increase soap consumption and save foreign exchange by setting up a small soap factory.

Mr. Cottrell-Dormer made a rough estimate of the cost of his complete scheme over the ten years he considered necessary to establish it firmly. His figure was £100,000, or less than half the amount of the Kingdom's foreign investments. So far the War and other difficulties have prevented much being done to realise its very attractive possibilities. There have been recent attempts to reform agricultural education, but apart from them the only important step has been the Agricultural Organisation Act of 1940.[1]

The Director's scheme shows that much can be done to improve Tonga's farming, its export trade and its standard of living. The Agricultural Organisation Act, even if it is still in the initial and tentative stage of administration, shows that the government is conscious of the need for such improvement, and is prepared to do something about it. The institutions already set up have made a good start and

[1] This Act sought to encourage planting, to promote co-operative effort, and to control the marketing of export products. Local Producers' Associations are to be set up, under the leadership of the town officers, with the general object of improving farming, and for such specific purposes as the acquisition and operation of hot-air driers. At the same time four export boards have been established. The Banana Board has already achieved an improvement in the quality of banana exports by making inspections more thorough, and by insisting upon the use of knives for harvesting. It has also encouraged the use of locally made cases. The Copra Board is now the sole purchaser of copra and has already secured improved export quality by introducing differential prices according to grade, and by refusing to purchase green copra. These authorities are all subject to a Council of Agriculture which co-ordinates their functions, and which gives them financial aid from an Agricultural and Industrial Development Fund, established by a government loan of £1,000. The Council also acts as an advisory body to the Minister of Agriculture.

101: Clark K-4,5 (1974) 1978 OU9 Tonga OU9

249 [241] Of the miscellaneous crops produced, two are particularly noteworthy--sugar cane and peanuts. Sugar cane is frequently produced on the farms of Vava'u, although limited cultivation may be found [257] throughout the nation. Sugar for domestic consumption is not produced in the Kingdom, and mature cane is sold in small unprocessed sticks, much like candy.

244 Peanuts have a great potential for expanded production in Tonga. The presence of a domestic market for peanuts is apparent throughout the Kingdom, and the potential dietary value of this product should be recognized. Employees within the Tongan Ministry of Agriculture blame the lack of extensive peanut production on the laziness of individual farmers. On the other hand, farmers refuse to plant peanuts without guaranteed aid for the necessary machinery and fertilizers.

245 [439] [241] Coconut is the best example of long-term cash cropping. Products of the palm, principally copra, equal approximately 85 percent of Tonga's total international export. Cultivation of palms is conducted independently of the food crop planting cycle. If well cared for, young palms will reach initial production four to six years after planting, although seven to nine years was frequently reported in interviews as being the time required prior to production. The coconut palm will produce for up to 70 years, with 50 to 60 years [136] being the norm. However, rats and beetle damage claim up to 25 percent of all potential produce.

241 245 Palms are often not planted in an orderly fashion on a typical 'api, being planted in a seemingly random distribution. An